

THE INTELLIGENCER.

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FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1855.

THE WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER, containing, together with its usual variety of reading matter, the full proceedings of the Methodist-Episcopal Conference, can be obtained at the Counting room of this office to-day.

PROFESSOR LOUIS AGASSIZ, acknowledged to be one of the first naturalists of the age, has offered to devote the last eight and the next ten years of his life to the service of the American public, without remuneration to himself—that is, to publish freely the result of all his scientific discoveries made in the United States, and to be made without charge for his labors, if the people of this country will but contribute funds to pay for the publication. A distinguished and wealthy citizen of Boston contributes the money to enable Harvard College to retain the valuable services of Professor Agassiz in the United States, and a few other gentlemen have commenced the fund for the publication of his works on American natural history. Contributors are only asked to give \$12 each per year, for ten years, and receive annually a magnificent quarto volume, handsomely printed and illustrated.

The New York Tribune says that the musical question is agitating the Society of Friends in that city. One prominent Friend who had a piano in his house was disowned at the monthly meeting of the Hicksites because he refused to give it up. The piano is still in his house but its owner has ceased to be a member of the Society. The Tribune says the decision is a very important one in its consequences. It seems that there are about forty friends in New York, who, with their families, are liable to the same condemnation. Most of them stand high in the Society in every respect except entertaining a taste for the tabooed art. Among the number is at least one preacher. Under the decision of the yearly meeting, the monthly meeting will of course commence casting out the offenders until the Society is purified of all music-loving persons.

Appointment by the President.

The "Union" confirms the announcement that John B. Blake had been appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings in place of Maj. B. French, resigned.

The same paper announces officially that Horatio J. Perry, the United States Secretary of Legation to Madrid, had been recalled, and Buckingham Smith, of Florida, appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Baby Show.

This disgusting exhibition of the last humbug of that most contemptible of humbugs, Barnum (we say contemptible, because his humbugs are only stuporous on account of the unblushing impudence which characterizes the man, and can never be any thing more than contemptible in the eyes of honest people) opened in New York on Tuesday. We cordially endorse the sentiments of the following article in the N. Y. Tribune:

There is now open in this City an exhibition of Babes in connection likewise with various monsters of natural deformity and eccentricity. Hogs, donkeys and other animals are displayed at agricultural shows for the purpose of obtaining prizes and improving their breeds. The advertisements of this Baby-Show promise similar rewards and far similar reasons.

The superficial often discover in the novelty of a project an excuse for its impropriety. The original of the baby-show idea was partially overlooked in the wild zig-zag of its Western origin. It seemed to some a heroic aspiration after the neglected grandeur of health and beauty—those of the antique mold—the age of undiseased mankind. But stolen by low cunning and transplanted to New York to a harlequin and monster Museum which stops at no deception to dupe the simple out of their money, the eccentric and comic thought of the West becomes a revolting speculation. There is something opposed to the tenderest instincts of our nature, something indescribably revolting and vulgar in this parade of unconscious innocence, coupled with an ostentatious pretense of a regard for the physical laws of man and the sublime entities of being.

The subject of health and bodily perfection is worthy of all the fire of the poet, the eloquence of the apostle, and the science of the savant. It denotes all that is valuable in life. It has more to do with moral and religion than is known to the common world's philosophy. It is the healthy eye which looks in harmony with the healthy muscle which is the citadel of the courage, making and sustaining States; the healthy brain which perfects genius—that electric force which crowns the greatness of humanity. In the pursuit of the laws of this health no customs or religions should have weight against new revelations. But these marts for private research and scientific study and not for popular gazing, which pass two shillings with equal facility when a string of fat children, a woolly horse, or a supposititious marmalade infant to that expenditure.

We must once more express our condemnation for this second-hand display, for a mercenary speculation with its lowest surroundings of a crowd helpless children. All that is generous and suggestive in the physical, as well as the moral and intellectual relations of infancy is here swamped in the meanest appeals to statified curiosity. It is a contemptuous disregard for the sanctities of home and of life. The speculator we are told will make five thousand dollars by it; nevertheless all persons of right feeling can only regard it with disgust and scorn.

The reporters of the daily papers give particulars of the "show" as they do of any other cattle show. The stock to be exhibited amount in all to 143. Seven sets of triplets, eleven sets of twins, and 100 single babies.

The Tribune says: "The baby who took the premium of \$100 at the handsew in the collection somehow escaped the notice of reporters. Its name is Charles Orlando Scott; it was born Feb. 18, 1851; the father is 30 years old and the mother 23; the mother had two children before she 'lived freely' for the year previous to its birth; she indulged during that time in general domestic exercise; its birth was regular, and it has been bathed in cold water Winter and Summer. Mr. Barnum speaks in very high terms of the beauty of the mother. The mother and child will be exhibited to day and through the week for the public satisfaction of the award. After that it can be found at No. 369 Fourth-av. Its father is a coachman." It is therefore definitely ascertained that a handsome baby must have a handsome mother, that she must live freely, take general domestic exercise on level land, and that her husband must be a coachman.

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The marriage took place at Washington on Monday afternoon in St. Matthew's Catholic Church, the parties to which were Mr. G. DeBause, Secretary to the French Legation, and Miss Susan, young daughter of Col. Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri. A splendid entertainment was given the bridal party at the residence of Col. J. C. Prentiss.

Health of New Orleans.—The telegraph brings intelligence of the terrible ravages of the cholera at New Orleans. Five hundred deaths had occurred in the week, more than one-half of which were by the epidemic.

At Bunker Hill Bostonians are making preparations for the celebration of the approaching anniversary of that battle, which occurs on the 17th of June.

(From the May number of *Bachman's Journal of Man.*)

Hot Weather Hygiene.

The approach of warm weather renders it appropriate to present a few suggestions as to the law of health, which it is important to bear in mind at the present season.

The hygiene of summer is, in many respects, opposite to that of winter. In cold weather the constitution is generally more robust; more food is consumed, and the waste of the body is greater, hence the leading object in winter is to burn a genorous supply of nourishing food to counteract the temperature of the body. In summer, on the contrary, the waste of material is much less, the temperature of the body is easily maintained, the demand for food is more moderate, and the constitutional sensibility and excitability are greater. Hence, while a genorous nourishing diet is appropriate to winter, temperature is peculiarly necessary in summer. Articles of a heating and stimulating nature produce a grateful warmth in winter, but are highly objectionable in summer. Stimulants are less needed in warm weather, but much larger quantities of fluid are required to supply the waste of perspiration and mitigate our thirst.

Another important difference between summer and winter is to be observed in the fact, that cold exerts an antiseptic influence, while warmth promotes putrefaction and even species of decomposition of organized materials. Hence in winter we need be little concerned about the purity of the air around our dwellings, while in summer it is a matter of vital importance.

The most rigid cleanliness should be observed as the weather grows warm, by removing the decaying vegetable and animal matter from our vicinity. In cities and villages there is much neglect of these precautions. With a proper system of drainage, every rain would wash our streets clean; but instead of providing iron gutters, into which the filth might run, and from which every shower would thoroughly remove it, a clumsy imitation of gutter is presented in a small ditch paved with rough stones, on which the dirt and filth accumulated in effusive masses, and which nothing but a tremendous flood can remove. It is common to adopt some sanitary measures for the streets, etc., when the cholera is approaching, but in reality there is greater necessity for cleanliness, in seasons characterized by fever, than during the prevalence of cholera. Pestiferous emanations do not exactly excite cholera, otherwise than by their general influence in undermining the health. Such emanations are especially adapted to excite fever, and are doubly formidable in a season when fevers are prevalent.

As the best method of purification, to guard against the feverish attacks of summer, the only perfect plan is, to wash off the offensive materials by a storm of rain, or to bury them beneath the surface of the earth. As these methods are not always practicable, lime, and the chloride of lime are frequently substituted, or, perhaps, antiseptic agents. Lime, however, is worthy of little reliance, having but little, if any note, antiseptic power than common clay. It can, however, be of service in decomposing and destroying vegetable, animal, and animal substances. The chloride of lime has some value, but it is too expensive to be used over a very extensive surface. Chloride of zinc, nitrate of lead, arsenic, crocus, pyrogallic acid, etc., are useful in counteracting putrefaction and its effects, but rather adapted to the purposes of the anatomist and chemist, than to the sanitary measures necessary for houses or cities.

The great counterguard of putrefaction, and absorption of noxious gases, is charcoal, fresh from the kiln, not having been exposed to the atmosphere long enough to have absorbed impurities. Where very offensive substances are found, they may be rendered perfectly harmless by covering them with a layer of fresh charcoal. Even the carcasses of domestic animals might be permitted to decay in it, without contaminating the atmosphere, if covered with a layer of charcoal.

The opposition condition of inanition is produced by a life of incessant exertion, and abstinence and abnegation, in which the increased action of the heart deprives the liver, while owing to the abstentious habits the natural supply of blood is greatly reduced. In either case the functions of the liver are impaired or suspended, in the former case, when the liver is suffering from intermitting fevers, and the consequent congestion, the remedy is to be found in a more active and temperate diet; alocholic drinks must be rigorously discontinued animal food laid aside, grapes, peaches, and other fruits and vegetables freely used, and habits of activity adopted. In the opposite condition, accompanied by a feverish state of circulation, and a contracted, inactive condition of the liver, we should seek rest and quietness, cultivate the appetite, and endeavor to promote healthy digestion. If, however, the exciting cause be found in the maladious atmosphere of a district where toads are prevalent, our efforts should be to escape to a healthy atmosphere, where antiseptic emanations, and the various forms of hydrogen gas, are absent, not exciting their contaminating influence. If we cannot escape the unfavorable atmosphere, we may guard to some extent against its effects by careful regulation of the diet—using rye and wholemeal flour, and not neglecting the antiseptic constituents of the table, salt and vinegar. If, with all our precautions, we still have reason to believe that an attack of fever is probable, a moderate use of tonic bitters, such as hydrosol, camphor, and quinia will do much to notify the constitution against fever, by exciting the taste buds.

Our sensations warn us that our health is not secure, and that an attack of fever is highly probable, we should not delay our active resistance until the attack is actually commenced. Quinine taken twice a day in 150 of three grain doses, in advance of any anticipated attack, will generally prevent its occurrence, and preserve us in good health, when a much larger quantity would be necessary taken at a later period. By this prophylactic, we should not delay our active resistance until the attack is actually commenced.

A very expeditious method of purifying air in unwholesome apartments, when the ventilation is not sufficient, is by placing grains of coffee, or spoonfuls of ground burnt to a coal, and the fumes diffused through the apartment. Thus, while it purifies the air it substitutes the pungent and wholesome aroma of the coffee, for its previous contamination.

But we should not rely upon any such measures, if the apartment can be ventilated by opening the doors and windows. If a free current cannot be thus introduced, a satisfactory ventilation may be caused by produced an upward draft in the chimney. To do this in warm weather, it will be necessary to kindle a blaze in the fire place, or subjecting it to the same heat by which it was first charred, whenever it is necessary to renew its juice. This may be done by throwing it into the fire, and then extinguishing it with water, or by subjecting it to an intense heat, or in a stove or oven. A very expeditious method of purifying air in unwholesome apartments, when the ventilation is not sufficient, is by placing grains of coffee, or spoonfuls of ground burnt to a coal, and the fumes diffused through the apartment. Thus, while it purifies the air it substitutes the pungent and wholesome aroma of the coffee, for its previous contamination.

It is still higher hygienic principles to be impressed upon the public mind, a truth of which we have not yet learned to teach. A free current can be easily introduced, a satisfactory ventilation may be caused by produced an upward draft in the chimney. The air is to be heated, or cooled, and then exhausted by opening the doors and windows.

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